



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

July 7th, 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 5th Floor Copper Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES: Focus – Criminal Justice

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Walter Robinson, Jonathan Sanford, Steven Easterday, Monireh Moghadam, Katie Burgard, Carrie Froelich, Terry Larkin, Tom Mann, Alex Glover, Chris Aiosa, Jennifer Hibbs, Don Weber, Pete Pringle, Scott Wilkening, Brook Jenkins, Cathy Spoffard, Belle Landau, Casey Curry, Q Quinones, Matt Burton

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Joint Transition Assistance Program Overview & Update Jennifer Hibbs	<p>Jennifer presented on the role of JTAP specialists and issues or barriers faced by veterans that they are working with. Jennifer provided example from immediately prior to the meeting in which she is assisting a single mom who is underemployed. Provides immediate resources to help service member stabilize and helps with resume (especially translating skills to civilian employment roles) to help her find another job. JTAP has a great partnership with Hero 2 Hire that has resulted in 1200 new hires since last October.</p> <p>Very important for JTAP to know what resources are available and how to pick them up, especially around the base. 75% of her caseload of airmen live in Multnomah County.</p> <p>Top needs she has seen are around education, specifically educating schools how to work with a family when a child is often tardy, what to do and the impact when a parent deploys, and how to get information on resources for military families. There isn't much data on military-connected children, so the group determined this would be good next step. Many teachers and school staff don't know if a child is from a military family.</p> <p>Group discussed developing a proposal for schools to 1) identify military-connected students on registration or other form, 2) build awareness among school staff about issues, needs, and resources for this population, and 3) identify best practices for collaborations between schools and the community partners engaged in the VTF. During discussion the group agreed that it's important to solve problems rather than just give referral information – any proposal needs to ensure the follow-through and "warm handoff" between partners.</p>	<p>Sean will follow up with Gresham Barlow School District to develop a proposal for schools. Will present draft to VTF at future meeting.</p>

	<p>Presented update on recent and upcoming deployments. Of the anticipated 1,000 or more deployments in the next year, approximately half are married, and those who are married have an average of 1.4 kids so there are likely hundreds of kids in Oregon schools this year with a parent deployed.</p> <p>Additional needs facing National Guard families include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding providers who will take Tri-Care • Getting financial needs met – both emergency assistance and ongoing financial planning to pay expenses • Handyman services such as mowing the lawn, car repair, etc • Coordinating the work of natural family supports (employers, churches, family/friends, and others) that families rely on 	
<p>USO Portland Update</p> <p>Steven Easterday</p>	<p>Port of Portland opened the 161st USO at the airport this past week. Opening party was attended by Sen. Wyden, Sen. Merkley's office, USO board members, and many others. It's on the second floor near the clock tower in main concourse at airport.</p> <p>Building on sustaining financial plan and need more volunteers for 4-hr blocks. To volunteer go to uso.org and click on the Portland link.</p>	<p>Volunteers are needed. Go to uso.org and click "Portland" to sign up.</p>
<p>Helping Men Heal</p> <p>Matt Burton</p>	<p>Matt presented an overview of this project, which is focused on male trauma and loss. Research suggests that 61% of men experience trauma and 30% of adult males were abused as children. The project is focusing on the military because service members are trained to "suck it up and deal with it". The curriculum teaches about trauma, introduces evidence-based tools, and models application of them in real life. Pilot is underway with a sports team at Concordia, then will do the entire Freshman class. For the veteran project they are doing a market metric survey with 60 people from 40 different organizations who work with veterans. Purpose of the twenty-one questions are to identify what men need to get better, how, and what needs to happen in order to pay for it.</p> <p>"Victory on the Home Front" event scheduled November 2nd, at which five families (one from each branch of the military) will be recognized for their trauma experience, what they did to manage it, and how they are helping others now. There is an online nomination process at helpingmenheal.org. Winners receive a gold medal, vacation, and grocery/gas card.</p>	<p>More information available at helpingmenheal.org</p>
<p>General Updates</p> <p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning Veterans Project: Suicide prevention and MST training in Bend on 7/18. TBI training at Lewis & Clark College on Sept. 26th. • Commissioner McKeel provided an update on the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference later this month in New Orleans, including the Veterans and Military Services Committee meeting, a workshop on county veterans service officers, and committee tour of the WWII museum. • East County Stand Down is scheduled October 18th, and just received 102 pallets of surplus gear. • Portland Stand Down is scheduled September 11th the next planning meeting will be at Transition Projects on July 16th @3pm. 	